

In the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0045] at page 14 as follows:

Figure 6 illustrates the effects of *Nell-1* overexpression on mineralization and bone marker expression. (Figure 6A) FRCC culture infected with 20 pfu/cell Ad*Nell-1*, stained with von Kossa stain. Control cell cultures were infected with Ad β -Gal. Experiments were performed in triplicate. Mineralized nodules are stained black. (Figure 3B) Quantitation and statistical analysis of mineralization area. Ad*Nell-1*-infected cultures demonstrated significantly greater mineralization than did Ad β -Gal controls. (Figure 6C) Ad*Nell-1* infected MC3T3 cells grown without ascorbic acid. Typical micronodule appearance is shown. Right panel represents alkaline phosphatase staining of a micronodule. (Figures 6D-F) Microarrays of ~~Ad*Nell-1*-infected~~ Ad*Nell-1*-infected MC3T3 cells on postinfection days 6, 9, and 12, respectively. Gene expression intensities have been normalized using standardized housekeeping genes (HKPGs). Hybridization intensities of Ad*Nell-1*-infected cells are represented on the y axis. Hybridization intensities of Ad β -Gal-infected cells are represented on the x axis. HKGs r^2 represents the correlation of housekeeping genes (filled squares) between the two samples. ECMs r^2 represents the correlation of candidate gene expression (open squares) between the two samples. A photograph of the microarray reading is attached in the upper left corner of each diagram. A twofold or greater upregulation is represented in red, while a twofold or greater downregulation is represented in green (g) Table summarizing genes with a difference in expression that is twofold higher or lower after Ad*Nell-1* infection (Figure 6G). The ratio is calculated as *Nell-1*/ β -Gal. Col, collagen.